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LETTER DATED 13 AUGUST 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 August 1990 from the Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the
Secretary-General

As you know, the Security Council has, within a small number of days, adopted a series of iniquitous resolutions against Iraq with a dispatch that is unprecedented in the history of the Organization.

In the first resolution it adopted, the Council leaped immediately to the stage of invoking the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter without allowing itself sufficient time to comprehend the situation and to acquaint itself with the facts from the parties concerned and in complete disregard of the position of Iraq and clarifications it could provide. In a period of no more than a few days, the Council then leaped to the stage of adopting a resolution on comprehensive and mandatory sanctions, once again in total disregard of the position of Iraq and any of its clarifications. There has never been such a procedure in the history of the Council, and it renders the resolutions adopted against Iraq unjust and out of keeping with the most elementary procedural notions in accordance with which the Council's work has been conducted in the past.

What has thus far transpired in the Council would not have taken place had it not been for the methods of pressure and deception employed by the United States with a number of Council members in order to induce them to vote for the said resolutions. The United States is thus endeavouring to establish itself as the controller of the world and of its destiny. These unjust resolutions, which were prejudged by certain States members of the Council and which the United States has endeavoured to impose, are evidently an ominous phenomenon in the history of the Organization, namely that of the imposition of double standards and selective judgements by force, intimidation and otherwise.

It is the United States, more than any other country in the world, that has regularly violated the Charter of the United Nations, the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and international law, and particularly so in our region. The United States has used the big stick in addressing international issues, and it has imposed its tyrannical will by force of arms, intimidation and campaigns of disinformation. We see no need to demonstrate that fact by means of examples drawn from the dark record of the United States in the Security Council, which is well known to the international community and which some fair-minded members of the Council have recently recalled in the course of its meetings.

We view the measures adopted by the Council as a flagrant injustice and as a denial of the facts of history and of contemporary events in the international community.

In this connection, we have an important observation to make. Security Council resolution 661 (1990), unjust and precipitous as it is, stipulates,

inter alia, that the iniquitous sanctions should not include supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs.

The United States has, however, had the intention from the very outset of preventing the delivery of such supplies for the purpose of starving and intimidating the people of Iraq, which is, however, a proud people, one that has fashioned civilizations throughout history and one which rejects humiliation and subjection. The United States has also incited a number of other States to follow its example, just as it has sought to impose a blockade on Iraq's exports and imports, thereby appointing itself the policeman of the world. Its trifling with words and designations does not alter this fact. Iraq calls upon the international community to reject these hostile and inhuman acts and to refuse to allow the United States to abuse human life in this crude fashion.

In another respect, it must be said that the embargo process itself has the objective from the practical point of view of starving the Iraqi people, which would not alter its stance or affect its staying power. How can the Iraqi people obtain foodstuffs and medical supplies when its major resource, namely oil, is cut off? If the Security Council had been thinking along sound humanitarian lines, it would have been in keeping with a true humanitarian approach, to have allowed a certain amount of oil to be exported which would, at the least, suffice to provide for normal humanitarian needs, principally foodstuffs and medicine.

Reference must be made to the fact that the United States has endeavoured by all possible means to induce certain States to close the pipelines that carry Iraqi oil, although these pipelines represent Iraqi investments made prior to recent events and despite the fact that the decision on closure does not in any way enter into the scope of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council and that it was resorted to only at the inducement of the United States.

In conclusion, I must say to you, Mr. Secretary-General, and through you to the entire international community that the Iraqi people, the Arab nation and all free peoples of the world who are proud of their sovereignty and independence will reject by all legitimate means the attempts of the United States to extend its domination over the world by force, intimidation and deception.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq

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